

CLAIMS:

1. A communication device of a mobile unit for communicating between a mobile unit and a terminal device, characterized in that the communication device, which enables communications with said terminal device when an electrical connection to a power source is ON, is provided in the mobile unit, and, in addition, means for intermittently turning ON and OFF an electrical connection between said power source and said communication device, when an engine of said mobile unit is OFF, is provided in the mobile unit.

2. The communication device of a mobile unit according to Claim 1, characterized in that said ON/OFF means turns ON the electrical connection between said power source and said communication device at a predetermined period.

3. A communication device of a mobile unit for communicating between a mobile unit and a terminal device, characterized in that detecting means for detecting internal parameters of the mobile unit is provided in said mobile unit, and when a detection output of said detecting means becomes a specified value, data related to the mobile unit is sent to said terminal device from said mobile unit.

4. The communication device of a mobile unit according to Claim 3, characterized in that said detecting means is detecting means for detecting a fact that an engine of said mobile unit has been started, and when said engine is started, the data related to the mobile unit is sent to said terminal device from said mobile unit.

5. The communication device of a mobile unit according to Claim 3, characterized in that said detecting means is detecting means for totaling engine operating hours of said mobile unit, and when a cumulative value of said engine operating hours either reaches a specified value, or increases by a specified quantity, the data related to the mobile unit is

sent to said terminal device from said mobile unit.

6. The communication device of a mobile unit according to Claim 3, characterized in that said detecting means is detecting means for detecting a location of said mobile unit, and when the location of said mobile unit changes, the data related to the mobile unit is sent to said terminal device from said mobile unit.

7. The communication device of a mobile unit according to Claim 3, characterized in that said detecting means is detecting means for detecting the relative location of said mobile unit in relation to a set range, and when the relative location of said mobile unit in relation to a set range becomes a specified relative location, the data related to the mobile unit is sent to said terminal device from said mobile unit.

8. The communication device of a mobile unit according to Claim 3, characterized in that said detecting means is detecting means for detecting a drop in voltage of a power source mounted to said mobile unit, and when the voltage of said power source drops below a specified value, the data related to the mobile unit is sent to said terminal device from said mobile unit.

9. The communication device of a mobile unit according to Claim 3, characterized in that the data related to the mobile unit is sent to said terminal device from said mobile unit only when a content of the data related to the mobile unit to be sent next time differs from a content of the data related to the mobile unit sent the previous time.

10. The communication device of a mobile unit according to Claim 3, characterized in that, change data is sent to said mobile unit from said terminal device, so that this change data is received by said mobile unit, and said mobile unit changes either a mobile unit internal parameter, or a specified value of said parameter in accordance with the received change data.

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11. A communication device of a mobile unit for communicating between a mobile unit and a terminal device, characterized in that:

a plurality of areas, which said mobile unit enters and exits, is established;

location detecting means for detecting a location of said mobile unit is provided

in said mobile unit;

based on the detection results of said location detecting means and location data

for said plurality of areas, when said mobile unit enters said areas, data to the effect that

this mobile unit entered this area is sent to said terminal device from this mobile unit, and

when said mobile unit exits from said areas, data to the effect that this mobile unit exited

this area is sent to said terminal device from this mobile unit; and,

based on said sent data, data on the entry/exit of said mobile unit to/from said

plurality of areas is managed by said terminal device.

12. The communication device of a mobile unit according to Claim 11, characterized

in that, when said mobile unit exits from any of said plurality of areas, location data is

sent to said terminal device from said mobile unit each time said mobile unit moves a

predetermined distance, and, based on said sent location data, information on a movement

history of said mobile unit is managed by said terminal device.

13. A communication device of a mobile unit for communicating between a terminal

device and a plurality of operational mobile units for operating at one or more operating

areas, characterized in that:

a transportation mobile unit for transporting said plurality of operational mobile

units is provided;

one or more storage and dispatch areas, at/from which said plurality of

operational mobile units are stored/dispatched, are established, and, in addition, one or

more operating areas, where said plurality of operational mobile units are operated, are established;

location detecting means for detecting locations of said plurality of operational mobile units is provided in each of said plurality of operational mobile units;

5 based on the detection results of said location detecting means and location data of said one or more operating areas, data as to whether or not said operational mobile unit is at said operating area is sent to said terminal device from this operational mobile unit;

based on the detection results of said location detecting means and location data of said one or more storage and dispatch areas, when said operational mobile unit enters
10 said storage and dispatch area, data to the effect that this operational mobile unit has entered this storage and dispatch area is sent to said terminal device from this operational mobile unit;

when said operational mobile unit exits from said storage and dispatch area, data to the effect that this operational mobile unit exited from this storage and dispatch area is
15 sent to said terminal device from this operational mobile unit;

based on said sent data, data as to whether said plurality of operational mobile units is either being stored at or has been dispatched from said one or more storage and dispatch areas, and data as to whether or not said plurality of operational mobile units is at said one or more operating areas are managed by said terminal device; and

20 based on said managed data, said terminal device issues instructions to said transportation mobile unit to transport said operational mobile unit from said operating area to said storage and dispatch area, or to transport said operational mobile unit from said storage and dispatch area to said operating area.

14. A communication device of a mobile unit for communicating between a terminal

device and a plurality of operational mobile units for operating within one or more operating areas, characterized in that:

a transportation mobile unit for transporting said plurality of operational mobile units is provided;

5 one or more storage and dispatch areas, at/from which said plurality of operational mobile units is stored/dispatched, are established, and, in addition, one or more operating areas, where said plurality of operational mobile units are operated, are established;

10 location detecting means for detecting locations of said plurality of operational mobile units is provided in each of said plurality of operational mobile units;

based on the detection results of said location detecting means, location data of said one or more storage and dispatch areas, and location data of said one or more operating areas, when said operational mobile unit enters either said storage and dispatch area, or said operating area, data to the effect that this operational mobile unit entered this area is sent to said terminal device from this operational mobile unit, and when said 15 operational mobile unit exits from either said storage and dispatch area, or said operating area, data to the effect that this operational mobile unit has exited from this area is sent to said terminal device from this operational mobile unit;

20 based on said sent data, data as to whether said plurality of operational mobile units is either being stored at or has been dispatched from said one or plurality of storage and dispatch areas, and data as to whether or not said plurality of operational mobile units is at said either one or plurality of operating areas are managed by said terminal device; and

based on said managed data, said terminal device issues instructions to said

transportation mobile unit to either transport said operational mobile unit from said operating area to said storage and dispatch area, or to transport said operational mobile unit from said storage and dispatch area to said operating area.

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